

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 059070

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R 240623Z APR 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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E.O. 11652C N/A

TAGS: EG, ENRG

SUBJECT: QATTARA DEPRESSION PROJECT-NUCLEAR ASPECTS

"FOLLOWING IS A REPEAT
QUOTE

P R 110047Z MAR 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, EG

SUBJECT: QATTARA DEPRESSION PROJECT-NUCLEAR ASPECTS

REFERENCE: (A) CAIRO 2481; (B) STATE 43316;
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PAGE 02 STATE 059070

(C) CAIRO 2096; (D) VIENNA 0698

MOSCOW FOR TTBT/PNE DELEGATION

1. LETTER ON QATTARA PROJECT REQUEST SHOULD BE FORWARDED TO MIN. ELECTRICITY SULTAN WHICH INCORPORATES FOLLOWING POINTS.

(A) USG HAS COMPLETED REVIEW OF QUALIFICATIONS OF POTENTIAL NOMINEES FOR QATTARA BOARD OF ADVISORS. IN SELECTION PROCESS KEY CRITERION HAS BEEN ABILITY TO HELP GOE ACHIEVE THOROUGH, REALISTIC EVALUATION OF PNES AND OTHER METHODS FOR ACCOMPLISHING QATTARA PROJECT.

(B) WITH VIEW TO ENSURING THAT RELEVANT U.S. EXPERTISE IS FULLY AVAILABLE, USG HAS DECIDED TO NOMINATE A TEAM OF TWO EXPERTS.

(C) U.S. NOMINEES FOR QATTARA PROJECT BOARD OF ADVISORS ARE KENNETH E. FIELDS AND WNDLL E. JOHNSON. BOTH WERE CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH U.S. STUDY OF POSSIBLE ATLANTIC-PACIFIC INTEROCEANIC CANAL. (FYI: DETAILED INFORMATION ON NOMINEES WILL BE POUCHED. END FYI.)

(D) FIELD AS ONE OF TWO ENGINEER COMMISSIONERS ON THE FIVE-MAN COMMISSION THAT STUDIES THIS CANAL. HE WAS RESPONSIBLE PRIMARILY FOR THE SCOPE, ADEQUACY, FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE TECHNICAL PHASES OF THE STUDY. HE WAS ALSO FORMERLY THE GENERAL MANAGER OF THE U.S. ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION.

(E) JOHNSON IS FORMER CHIEF OF ENGINEERING DIVISION, CIVIL WORKS, U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS AND WAS IN CHARGE OF ENGINEERING IN THE CORPS OF ENGINEERS WATER RESOURCES PROGRAM. IN THIS CAPACITY HE HELPED TO EVALUATE THE USE OF PNES, AS WELL AS NON-NUCLEAR MEANS, FOR EXCAVATION OF A NEW INTEROCEANIC CANAL.

(F) NOMINEES WILL PARTICIPATE IN PURELY PERSONAL, PRIVATE CAPACITY AND SHOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED OR DESCRIBED AS REPRESENTATIVES OF USG.

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PAGE 03 STATE 059070

(G) USG RECOGNIZES THE IMPORTANCE ATTACHED BY GOE TO QATTARA FEASIBILITY STUDY AND THEREFORE WISHES TO BE RESPONSIVE TO GOE BY ASSISTING IN FEASIBILITY STUDY. USG VIEW REMAINS, HOWEVER, THAT BASED ON OUR STUDIES, IT DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE POSSIBLE TO CARRY OUT MAJOR PNE EXCAVATION PROJECTS, INCLUDING THE QATTARA PROJECT AS CURRENTLY PROPOSED BASED ON 1973 BASSLER REPORT, WITHOUT VIOLATING THE 1963 LIMITED TEST BAN TREATY. USG NOMINATION OF PRIVATE EXPERTS AND OTHER ASSISTANCE TO THE FEASIBILITY STUDY DOES NOT CARRY ANY COMMITMENT BY THE USG TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH THE PROJECT SHOULD IT EVER BE UNDERTAKEN. (FYI: THIS CHANGE IN FORMULATION

DOES NOT IMPLY ANY CHANGE IN USG POLICY. END FYI.)

2. WASHINGTON AGENCIES CONCERNED OVER TENDENCY OF OFFICIAL GOE STATEMENTS TO GIVE INCORRECT PICTURE OF U.S. INVOLVEMENT. OF PARTICULAR CONCERN ARE TENDENCY TO GIVE OFFICIAL CHARACTER TO PARTICIPATION BY PRIVATE U.S. INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS (REFTEL C) AND CITATION OF POSITIVE PRELIMINARY REPORT BY LLL (REFTEL D) WITHOUT REFERENCE TO PROBLEMS POSED BY LTBT. YOU SHOULD COMMUNICATE THESE CONCERNS TO APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS AND SEEK ASSURANCE THAT FUTURE OFFICIAL STATEMENTS WILL MORE ACCURATELY PORTRAY USG POSITION.

3. FYI PORTION PARA 2 REFTTEL B REFERRED TO USG INTEREST IN ENSURING THAT EVALUATION OF BOTY PNES AND ALTERNATIVE METHODS FOR CARRYING OUT QATTARA PROJECT IS THOROUGH AND BALANCED. YOU ARE CORRECT IN ASSUMPTION THAT USG IS NOT INTERESTED IN PROMOTING QATTARA PROJECT.

4. REFERENCE PARA 3 REFTTEL C. STATEMENT REPORTED THIRD SENTENCE COULD BE MISINTERPRETED TO MEAN U.S. HAS ALREADY DETERMINED IT WILL NOT PARTICIPATE IN QATTARA PROJECT UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES. ASSUME STATEMENT WAS BASED ON U.S. OBLIGATION NOT TO BECOME INVOLVED IN ANY PNE PROJECT WHICH IS NOT FULLY CONSISTENT WITH ALL EXISTING TREATY OBLIGATIONS INCLUDING, IN PARTICULAR, THE LTBT. KISSINGER UNQUOTE SISCO

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